



ARKANSAS

The Afterschool Investments project is developing profiles for each state to provide a snapshot of the “state of afterschool,” as well as an opportunity to compare afterschool activities across the country. This profile provides key data and descriptions of the afterschool landscape, which includes a range of out-of-school time programming that can occur before and afterschool, on weekends, and during summer months. It is designed to serve as a resource for policymakers, administrators, and providers.

Statewide Initiatives

- ▶ **Arkansas Out-of-School Network.** Since 2002, agency representatives, state and local advocates, public school officials, and other stakeholders have been working together to seed the development of a statewide network that will work to expand and improve afterschool programs that provide a safe, healthy, enriching environment for Arkansas youth during out-of-school times. The network is collaborating to develop a plan for quality out of school programs, identify new stakeholders and partners to join the network, collect information on existing out-of-school programs, and build the infrastructure to manage an information system that serves as a clearinghouse for all current programs.
- ▶ **Arkansas School-Age Quality Initiative.** Using over \$100,000 in CCDF quality funds, the Arkansas Department of Human Services contracts with Childhood Services at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro to provide technical assistance and training to school-age programs across the state with the goal of increasing the number of state-accredited school-age programs. This work includes efforts to create cooperative efforts between school districts and community-based organizations applying for 21st Century Community Learning Center funding. Funds support annual statewide and regional school-age conferences, the Arkansas School-Age Care Alliance (ArkSACA), the quarterly publication of School-Age Links for caregivers, and enhancement grants to licensed school-age child care programs to upgrade and expand care quality.

Quick Facts

Demographics

Total population:2,673,400

Number of children
ages 5-12:303,853

Percent of population:11%

Percent of students eligible
for free and reduced-price
lunch:47.2%

Percent of K-12 students in Title I
“Schoolwide” schools:30.9%

For more demographic information,
visit [http://nccic.org/statedata/
statepro/arkansas.html](http://nccic.org/statedata/statepro/arkansas.html)

Child Care and
Development Fund (CCDF)• CCDF Administrative
Overview

Administering agency:
Arkansas Department of Human
Services

Total estimated FFY03
federal and state
CCDF funds:\$51,044,504

FFY03 total federal
share:\$44,284,189

FFY03 state MOE plus
match:\$6,760,315

FFY03 School Age & Resource and
Referral Earmark:\$216,337

FFY02 Total Quality
Expenditures:\$621,548

Percent of children receiving
CCDF subsidies who are
ages 5-12:30.1%



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau



► **Arkansas 21-Century Network.** This initiative, a partnership of the Arkansas Department of Education and the Yale Center for Child Development and Social Policy, seeks to provide Arkansas' children and families with high quality educational programs. In 2001, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation joined the effort with a five-year commitment to increasing the network's capacity statewide. Several of the School of the 21st Century Network communities have focused on providing extended-day afterschool programs for elementary and middle-school students.

For more information, see <http://www.yale.edu/21c/arkansas/>

► **Raising Arkansas Youth.** In 2000, representatives from Arkansas attended a national Search Institute meeting that focused on programs that help develop the 40 essential youth development assets for young people. Since that meeting, the group, formalized as the Raising Arkansas Youth (RAY) Initiative, meets regularly to determine how Arkansas will implement a statewide asset-building initiative. With coordination by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension service, the initiative is a collaborative effort of many organizations, including Arkansas' Promise, New Futures for Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Communities and Schools, Jones Center for Families, Sheriffs Youth Ranch, Little Rock Air Force Base, Department of Volunteerism, and others. Afterschool programs are a key focus of the group's work.

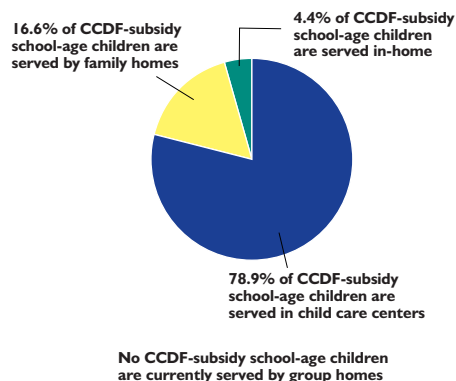
Notable Local Initiatives

► **Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) Initiative.** In 1994, a citizen-based project called FUTURE-Little Rock recommended and helped pass a 1/2 cent sales tax to permanently designate city funds to sustain and administer the city's Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (PIT) initiative, which emphasizes neighborhood collaborations between public, private, and other community-based players; strong citizen involvement; and targeted youth development programming. Since the implementation of PIT, major crimes in Little Rock have dropped, especially among the adolescent population. A piece of this youth development strand is New Futures for Youth, an Annie E. Casey Foundation program that provides a forum for community problem solving and encouraging collaboration between the various community players in youth issues—churches, businesses, and neighborhood groups. New Futures recommended that the Prevention and Intervention portions of the funding be consolidated and used to fund neighborhood-based youth development programs during non-school hours and that the programs be targeted to those neighborhoods with the greatest needs. The City of Little Rock currently funds 24 year-round youth development programs.

► **Jonesboro, Arkansas.** In response to a 1998 school shooting, Jonesboro city officials surveyed citizens and identified the need for more neighborhood and community center programs for youth. As a result, the city and local school districts have partnered and received several federal grants, including an \$8.7 million, four-year Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. The school district and city have designed afterschool programs that focus on character education, physical education, and community service. A portion of the city's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds also support the programs.

Quick Facts (continued)

• Settings



• Uses of CCDF Earmarks and Quality Dollars for Afterschool

"Resource and referral and school-age" earmark:

Funds may be used to plan a Child Care Resource & Referral regional conference and to provide information about licensed childcare across the state through a variety of outlets. The Arkansas School Age Quality Initiative may use funds to support the work of the Arkansas School-Age Care Association, and to develop informational tools to share with the school-age community.

Other quality activities:

Special training projects developed by different state universities focusing on school-age activities may be funded with quality dollars.

• Provider Reimbursement Rates and Family Copayments

Label assigned by state for school-age rate category:School-age

Maximum rate for center-based school-age category:\$10 per day

Notes: Rates vary by county, there is no monthly rate.

Standardized monthly center-based school-age rate:Data not available

Is "time in care" a factor in determining family copayment for school-age care?No

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care

FFY02 state TANF transfer to CCDF:\$6,000,000

FFY02 TANF direct spending on child care:\$866,800

Statewide Organizations

National AfterSchool Association Affiliate:

Arkansas School-Age Care Alliance
c/o Beebe Public Schools
1201 West Center
Beebe, AR 72012
Phone: 501-882-8408
Fax: 501-882-5465

Statewide Child Care Resource & Referral Network:

Arkansas Child Care Resource Center
700 Main Street
Little rock, AR 72201
Phone: 501-682-4892 or 1-800-445-3316
Web: www.arkansas.gov/childcare

Additional Resources

State Child Care Administrators:

<http://nccic.org/statedata/dirs/devfund.html>

State TANF Contacts:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/hs_dir2.htm

21st Century Community Learning Centers Contacts:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/21stcclc/contacts.html>

Quick Facts (continued)

Program Licensing and Accreditation Policies

Are there separate school-age licensing standards?Yes

Are school-operated programs exempt from licensing standards? No

Ratio of children to adults in school-age centers:

5 years18:1

6 year & over20:1

Number of National AfterSchool Association (NAA) accredited programs:2

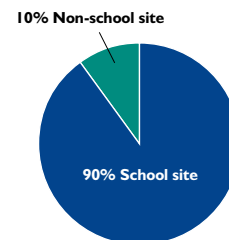
Note: Arkansas has a State Accreditation/Quality Approval process for school-age programs with 20% of the licensed capacity of school-age children in state accredited programs.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)

FY02 state formula grant amount:\$2,862,340

Applications funded:20

Program locations:



Licensing required?Yes

Additional information about 21st CCLC:

Cooperative efforts between school districts and community-based organizations applying for 21st Century Community Learning Center funding allows for outreach and expansion of quality afterschool programs for children.

Notes and Sources

Demographics

Total population: *Demographic Profiles: Census 2000*, U.S. Census Bureau, as cited in *State Child Care Profiles*, National Child Care Information Center, available at: <http://nccic.org/statedata/statepro/index.htm>.

Number of children ages 5-12: *Census 2000 Summary File (SF-3) Sample Data*, Table P8, Sex by Age (79), U.S. Census Bureau.

Percent of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch rate: *Overview of Elementary and Secondary Schools and Districts: School Year 2001-02* (Table 10), National Center on Education Statistics, May 2003. Because data from School Year 2001-02 was unavailable for Wyoming, data from School Year 2000-01 was used. Data was unavailable for either school year for Arizona, Connecticut, and Tennessee.

Percent of K-12 students in Title I "schoolwide" schools: *Overview of Elementary and Secondary Schools and Districts: School Year 2001-02* (Table 9), National Center on Education Statistics, May 2003. The federal Title I program provides funding to local school districts and schools with high percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic content and student academic achievement standards. Schools enrolling at least 40 percent of students from poor families are eligible to use Title I funds for schoolwide programs that serve all children in the school.

Child Care and Development Fund

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) is the largest federal funding source for child care. States receive a funding allocation determined by formula and have broad flexibility to design programs that provide child care subsidies for low-income children under the age of 13 and to enhance the quality of child care for all children. Federal CCDF funding consists of mandatory, matching, and discretionary funds. Federal law requires that states spend at least 4 percent of their CCDF funds as well as additional earmarks on activities to improve the quality and availability of child care. CCDF administrative data in this and the following sections is from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau, as reported by States, unless otherwise noted.

FFY03 state MOE plus match: In order to receive Federal matching funds, a state must expend Maintenance of Effort funds. Note that this does not capture actual expenditures, only the minimum required to draw down all available federal funds.

FFY02 total quality expenditures: Many states spend more than the required minimum 4 percent on quality expansion activities. Note that this data includes FY02 funds expended for quality activities from each of the CCDF funding streams (mandatory, matching, and discretionary) and expenditures under earmarks for quality, infant and toddler, and school-age and resource and referral. This figure provides information obtained from state financial reports submitted for FY02. States continue to report on their expenditures of FY02 funds until expended; therefore, these numbers are subject to annual updates.

Uses of CCDF Earmarks and Quality Dollars for Afterschool: Portions of CCDF discretionary funds are earmarked specifically for resource and referral and school-age child care activities as well as for quality expansion. (These funds are in addition to the required 4 percent minimum quality expenditure.)

Maximum rate for school-age category: Rate listed applies to center-based care; where rates vary by region or county, the rate for the most populated urban area is given.

Standardized monthly school-age rate: Monthly rate for a child, age 8, in care after school during the school year at a center in the most costly district for four hours per day, 20 days per month. Calculated (in the lowest tier of a tiered system) using information from the FY2004-2005 State CCDF Plan, including rate structures, as submitted to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Child Care

In addition to spending TANF funds directly on child care, a state may transfer up to 30 percent of its TANF grant to CCDF. Expenditures represent TANF funds spent in FY02 that were awarded in FY02 and prior years. Data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families.

Program Licensing and Accreditation Policies

Ratio of children to adults in school-age setting: Data from National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, available at: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>.

Number of NAA-accredited programs: Data from the National AfterSchool Association, April 2004, available at: <http://www.nsaca.org/accredited.htm>.

21st Century Community Learning Centers

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 converted the 21st Century Community Learning Centers' authority to a state formula grant. In past years, the U.S. Department of Education made competitive awards directly to school districts. Under the reauthorized law, funds will flow to states based on their share of Title I, Part A funds. States will use their allocations to make competitive awards to eligible entities. 1999, 2000, and 2001 grants will continue to be administered by and receive funding through the U.S. Department of Education.

FFY02 formula grant amount: Data from the U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Office. Available at: <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/04stbypr.xls>.

Applications funded: Data from *State Administration of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program*. Compiled by Learning Point Associates, September 8, 2003.

In 2003, the Child Care Bureau awarded a three-year technical assistance contract to The Finance Project and their partner, the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, for the Afterschool Investments project. The goals of the Afterschool Investments project include:

- Identifying ways that states and communities are using Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) subsidy and quality dollars to support out-of-school time programs, and sharing these practices and approaches with other states;
- Identifying administrative and implementation issues related to CCDF investments in out-of-school time programs, and providing information and context (about barriers, problems, opportunities) as well as practical tools that will help CCDF administrators make decisions; and
- Identifying other major programs and sectors that are potential partners for CCDF in supporting out-of-school time programs and providing models, strategies, and tools for coordination with other programs and sectors.

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The Afterschool Investments project's State Profiles are designed to provide a comprehensive overview of noteworthy State and local initiatives across the country. Inclusion of an initiative in the Profiles does not represent an endorsement of a particular policy or practice.